

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUNICH 00889 281600Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8269
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
USMISSION US BERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: STRAUSS DECLARES CANDIDACY FOR MINISTER-PRESIDENCY
OF BAVARIA

1. CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS TOLD PRESS IN MUNICH THIS
AFTERNOON THAT HE WOULD BE FIRST APPLICANT (BEWERBER) IF BAVARIA'S
PRESENT MINISTER-PRESIDENT (ALFONS GOPPEL) SHOULD DECIDE TO
RELINQUISH OFFICE BEFORE HIS TERM EXPIRES IN FALL OF 1978.
UNTIL GOPPEL ANNOUNCES HIS DECISION, HOWEVER, STRAUSS INTENDS
TO CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES IN BONN WITH INCREASED EMPHASIS ON
EUROPEAN POLITICS AND, TO SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE, "EXTRA-EUROPEAN"
POLITICS.

2. STRAUSS EMPHASIZED THAT HE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT, AS
MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF BAVARIA, LIMIT HIS ATTENTION TO BAV-
ARIAN AFFAIRS.

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3. STRAUSS ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD CLAIM POST OF MINISTER-
PRESIDENT AFTER 1978 LANDTAG ELECTIONS, IF GOPPEL SHOULD CHOOSE
TO COMPLETE HIS TERM.

4. STRAUSS MADE IT PLAIN THAT HIS PLANS ARE CONTINGENT UPON
GOPPEL'S DECISION TO COMPLETE TERM OR TO STEP DOWN BEFORE 1978
LANDTAG ELECTIONS. IN QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, STRAUSS QUALIFIED

HIS EARLIER STATEMENTS SOMEWHAT. HE SAID THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS APPLYING TO EVERY CONCEIVABLE SITUATION. HE RESTATED HIS PRIMARY INTEREST IN BAVARIA UNDER PRESENTLY FORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT NOTED THAT ONE SHOULD NEVER SAY NEVER.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN WIDELY ASSUMED THAT STRAUSS WOULD MAKE BID TO SUCCEED ALFONS GOPPEL, TODAY'S STATEMENTS SHOULD LEAVE NO DOUBT OF STRAUSS' INTENTIONS. JUDGING FROM RELAXED AND EVEN BEMUSED MANNER IN WHICH STRAUSS HANDLED HIMSELF, CONGEN BELIEVES HE IN FACT FORESEES NO REPEAT NO PROBLEM IN ARRANGING FOR GOPPEL TO STEP ASIDE WELL BEFORE THE 1978 LANDTAG ELECTIONS.
BETTS

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Message Attributes

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